

REMARKS

Claims 83-116 are added hereby. Claims 83-85 correspond to claims 38-40 of the parent application (U.S. Appln. No. 08/915,919, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,154,462). Claims 52-116 are now pending in the present application.

Claims 83-85 (formerly claims 38-40 in the parent) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph, 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in the previous application. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the above-identified patent application as amended in view of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 83-85 (formerly claims 38-40 in the parent) were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph in the previous application (U.S. Appln. No. 08/915,919, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,154,462). In particular, claim 83, line 6 which read in the previous application, “storing the source address . . . *network device, not including a ring switch . . . of the switch*,” was rejected as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 83, line 6 in the present amendment has been changed to read “storing the source address . . . *network device, not including another ring switch . . . of the switch*”. Therefore, claim 83, as added in the present amendment, is believed to have sufficient antecedent basis. Claims 84 and 85 depend directly or indirectly from claim 83 and, as such, include the patentable limitations of claim 83.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 83-85 (formerly claims 38-40 in the parent) were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in the previous application (U.S. Appln. No. 08/915,919, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,154,462) as being anticipated by Konishi (U.S. Patent No. 4,933,937). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 83, line 8 as added in the present amendment has been changed to read “. . . transmission on the ring network without the use of a token or encapsulating the data packet . . .”.

As discussed with the previous application (U.S. Appln. No. 08/915,919, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,154,462), Konishi does not include a table that associates the addresses of network devices with the second data port when data packets are received at the first data port. Rather, the address table of Konishi apparently associates “node address” and “LAN addresses” (see Fig. 4). Nothing in Konishi associates an address of a network device with a ring-out port when a packet is received at the ring-in port as called for in the claim. Further, as Applicant has changed the claim to specify that the ring switch operates without using a token or encapsulating the packets. Konishi clearly uses encapsulation.

Therefore, claim 83, as added in the present amendment, is not anticipated by Konishi. Claims 84 and 85 depend directly or indirectly from claim 83 and, as such, include the patentable limitations of claim 83.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 83-85 (formerly claims 38-40 in the parent) were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in the previous application (U.S. Appln. No. 08/915,919, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,154,462) as being unpatentable over Chin (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,421). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 83 is directed to a method for building an address table for a port of a ring switch of a ring network. The method includes receiving a data packet at a first port of the ring switch and reading the source address from the data packet. The method stores the source address in an address table for the ring switch that indicates that the data packet originated from a network device associated with a second, different port of the switch so as to allow unidirectional transmission on the ring network.

Chin does not teach or suggest this method of claim 83. Chin does not store a source address read from a data packet received at one port with an indication that the originating network device can be reached out of another, different port of the ring switch. Therefore, claim 83 is not obvious in light of Chin.

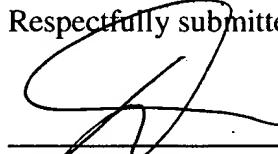
Claims 84 and 85 depend directly or indirectly from claim 83 and, as such, include the patentable limitations of claim 83.

CONCLUSION

Claims 83-116 are added hereby. Claims 52-116 are now pending in the present application.

Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2200.

Respectfully submitted,



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